

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 4-7 have been amended. Thus, claims 3-7 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

**Objections to the Claims**

In the Office Action mailed November 23, 2005, claims 4-7 were objected to for informalities. Claims 4-7 have been amended responsive to the objection. If any further amendment is necessary to overcome the objection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,624,671 to Fotouhi (hereinafter "Fotouhi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,412,349 to Young et al. (hereinafter, "Young"). To the extent the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejection, as follows.

The Office Action asserts that Fotouhi discloses all of the limitations of claim 3, with the exception of a third transistor for which a control electrode is connected to a first electrode of the power transistor and for which a second electrode is connected to a control electrode of the second transistor. Young is cited as allegedly curing the defects that exist in Fotouhi.

In making this rejection, the Office Action states:

Figure 2a of Young shows a simple op-amp (37) comprising only two transistors.

*Office Action of November 23, 2005, at p. 2.*

The Applicants respectfully submit that the op-amp 37 of Young includes two transistors 43, a constant current source 40, and two resistors 47. Therefore, replacing the op-amp of Fotouhi with the op-amp 37 of Young does not yield a circuit having only a third transistor that functions as an op-amp.

The Applicants submit that neither Fotouhi nor Young teaches that a single third transistor (e.g., transistor M4 shown in Fig. 7 of the subject application) provides an effect equivalent to an operational amplifier (e.g., op-amp A shown in Fig. 1 of the subject application).

The Applicants therefore submit that neither Fotouhi nor Young, nor the combination thereof, discloses or suggests at least the combination of a power transistor that feeds a large current to a load; a first transistor of which a second electrode and a control electrode are connected respectively to a second electrode and a control electrode of the power transistor; a second transistor of which a second electrode is connected to a first electrode of the first transistor; and a third transistor of which a control electrode is connected to a first electrode of the power transistor and of which a second electrode is connected to a control electrode of the second transistor, wherein the second transistor outputs, at a first electrode thereof, a current signal proportional to a current flowing through the power transistor, as recited in claim 3.

For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 3 is allowable over the combination of Fotouhi and Young.

As claim 3 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 4-7, which depend from allowable claim 3, are likewise allowable over the combination of Fotouhi and Young.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-7 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 103213-00071.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele L. Connell", written over a horizontal line.

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